

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/874,022

Applicant(s)

EDECKER ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Kristie D. Shingles

2141

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 3/6/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-29.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 4/07.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

kds/20070427

  
RUPAL DHARIA  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

**DETAILED ACTION**

**Response to Restriction/Election**

- I.** The Office acknowledges receipt of Applicant's remarks and claim amendments filed 9/6/2006: claims 1-53 and 55-60 were amended; claims 54 and 60 were canceled.
- II.** This action is responsive to Applicant's restriction election, received in the Response to Restriction Requirement on 3/6/2007. Applicant elects with traverse, Group 1 (Claims 1-29). Hence, claims 1-29 are pending and will be examined in the instant action. Claims 30-53 and 55-60 are nonelected and therefore will not be examined.
- III.** In light of the allowability of Claims 1-29, Applicant has approved the cancellation of the non-elected claims, claims 30-53 and 55-60. Claims 54 and 61 were previously cancelled.
- IV.** Claims 1-29 are allowed.

**Response to Arguments**

- V.** Applicant's arguments see Remarks pages 33-43, filed 9/6/2006, with respect to the pending claims have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore the 35 U.S.C. 102(a) rejection of the above claims have been withdrawn.

**Examiner's Amendment**

- VI.** An Examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to Applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the

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payment of the issue fee.

**VII.** Authorization for this Examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Atty. Brian Mattson on April 26, 2007.

Please make the following changes:

**a. Cancel Claims 30-53 and 55-60.**

**b. Regarding Claim 1:**

- In line 10, replace “and” with—or—to read: “...module *or*...”.
- In line 17:
  - delete “adapted to”;
  - replace “receive and store” with—receiving and storing—to read: “a server host *receiving and storing* the data...”.
- In line 19:
  - delete “is adapted to”;
  - replace “change, store and transmit” with—changes, stores and transmits—to read: “host *changes, stores and transmits* the dynamic...”.
- In line 25:
  - delete “adapted to”;
  - replace “store and transmit” with—storing and transmitting—to read: “a plurality of servers *storing and transmitting* the...”.
- In line 34, delete “to”.

**c. Regarding Claim 3:**

- In line 6, insert—host—between “the” and “informational” to read: “...the *host* informational data.”

**d. Regarding Claim 5:**

- In line 1, replace “Claim 5” with—Claim 1—to read: “The system of *Claim 1*...”.

**e. Regarding Claim 8:**

- In line 4, replace “the plurality of session servers” with—a plurality of session servers—to read: “at least one of *a* plurality of session servers ...”.
- In line 7, replace “information” with—informational—to read: “host *informational* data.”

**f. Regarding Claim 16:**

- In line 17, replace “and” with—or—to read: “...module *or*...”.
- In line 23, replace “information data” with—host informational data—to read: “...the *host informational* data...”.

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- In line 27, insert—host—between “the” and “informational” to read: “...the *host* informational data...”.

**g. Regarding Claim 21:**

- In line 6, replace “the roaming session server” with—a roaming session server—to read: “...stored at *a* roaming session server...”.
- In line 7, replace “the host home session server” with—a host home session server—to read: “...stored at *a* host home session server...”.

Claim 1 should now read:

A networked computer system for enabling a plurality of users to access a virtual reality environment and interact in the virtual reality environment, the system comprising:

data representing the virtual reality environment including static virtual reality data and dynamic virtual reality data wherein the static virtual reality data is object information representing virtual reality objects wherein the object information of the static virtual reality data represents any one of a three-dimensional model, a graphic texture, a sound, a program module or a script wherein the dynamic virtual reality data represents parameter values of exemplars of the virtual reality objects within the virtual reality environment wherein the parameter values represent geometric coordinates and describe a state of the exemplars of the virtual reality objects within the virtual reality environment;

a server host ~~adapted to~~ receiving and storing the data representing the virtual reality environment wherein the server host ~~is adapted to~~ changes, stores and transmits the dynamic virtual reality data representing the virtual reality environment wherein a host name of the server host has been assigned to the server host and wherein the host name of the server host represents a network location of the server host wherein the server host is accessible via the host name of the server host;

a plurality of servers ~~adapted to~~ storing and transmitting the data representing the virtual reality environment and data representing the location of the server host wherein the data representing the network location of the server host identifies a network address of the server host wherein at least one of the plurality of servers communicates with the server host; and

a client host communicating with at least one of the plurality of servers wherein the client host obtains the data representing the location of the server host from at least one of the plurality of servers ~~to~~ to establish network communication with the server host, wherein the client host requests and receives the network address of the server host from one of the servers by providing the host name representing the network location of the server host wherein the client host connects to the server host via the network address of the server and receives the dynamic virtual reality data from the server host wherein the client host identifies the static virtual reality data of the virtual reality environment from the dynamic virtual reality data received from the server host wherein the client host requests and receives the static virtual reality data from one of the servers to access the virtual reality environment wherein the client host activates the virtual reality environment with the dynamic virtual reality data and the static virtual reality data.

**Reasons for Allowance**

(The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance)

**VIII.** The prior art of record fails to teach neither singly nor in combination, the claimed limitations of: "data representing the virtual reality environment including static virtual reality data and dynamic virtual reality data wherein the static virtual reality data is object information representing virtual reality objects wherein the object information of the static virtual reality data represents any one of a three-dimensional model, a graphic texture, a sound, a program module or a script wherein the dynamic virtual reality data represents parameter values of exemplars of the virtual reality objects within the virtual reality environment wherein the parameter values represent geometric coordinates and describe a state of the exemplars of the virtual reality objects within the virtual reality environment; a plurality of servers storing and transmitting the data representing the virtual reality environment and data representing the location of the server host wherein the data representing the network location of the server host identifies a network address of the server host wherein at least one of the plurality of servers communicates with the server host; and a client host communicating with at least one of the plurality of servers wherein the client host obtains the data representing the location of the server host from at least one of the plurality of servers to establish network communication with the server host, wherein the client host requests and receives the network address of the server host from one of the servers by providing the host name representing the network location of the server host wherein the client host connects to the server host via the network address of the server and receives the dynamic virtual reality data from the server host wherein the client host identifies the static virtual reality data of the virtual reality environment from the dynamic virtual reality data received from the server host wherein the client host requests and receives the static virtual reality data from one of

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the servers to access the virtual reality environment wherein the client host activates the virtual reality environment with the dynamic virtual reality data and the static virtual reality data” as stated in independent claims 1 and 16 (see Applicant's Specification pages 16-19 and 23-30).

Specifically, the prior art of record fails to disclose a client host capable of communicating with at least one server to obtain the name/location of the server host in order to communicate with the server host; wherein the server host provides the client host with the dynamic virtual reality data and the client is able to identify, request and receive the static virtual reality data from one of the servers. As discussed in Applicant's Remarks on pages 33-43, filed 9/6/2006, these limitations, in conjunction with other limitations in the independent and dependent claims, are not specifically disclosed or remotely suggested in the prior art of record. A review of Claims 1-29 in view of the Examiner's remarks above, indicates that Claims 1-29 are allowable over the prior art of record.

**IX.** Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

#### **Conclusion**

**X.** Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kristie Shingles whose telephone number is 571-272-3888. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30-6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rupal Dharia can be reached on 571-272-3880. The fax phone number for the


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organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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